IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel without prejudice Claims 16, 17 and 18.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) An immunoassay method of quantifying a predetermined antigen in a sample of whole blood, comprising the steps of:

providing a sample of the whole blood;

adding a hemolysis reagent and a latex reagent directly to the sample of the whole blood without any pre-treatment of the whole blood;

hemolysing the whole blood sample with the hemolysis reagent to hemolyse the blood corpuscles;

reacting the hemolysed whole blood sample in an agglutination reaction to form a reaction mixture wherein a predetermined antigen in the hemolysed whole blood sample specifically reacts with an antibody immobilized onto an insoluble carrier;

irradiating the reaction products in the sample with radiation which include a wavelength range which is substantially free from absorption by both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent; and

measuring only in a wavelength range which is substantially free from absorption by both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent, an absorbance of the incident radiation through the reaction mixture to determine the quantity of antigens in the sample.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay method of Claim 10, wherein the step of hemolysing is performed with a saponin aqueous solution.

12. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay method of Claim 11, wherein the measuring step is performed with the use of an erythrocyte counter.

13. (Previously Presented) An agglutination immunoassay method of quantifying a predetermined antigen in a sample of whole blood, comprising the steps of:

providing a sample of the whole blood;

adding a hemolysis reagent and a latex reagent directly to the sample of the whole blood without any pre-treatment of the whole blood;

hemolysing the whole blood sample with the hemolysis reagent to hemolyse the blood corpuscles;

reacting the hemolysed whole blood sample in an agglutination reaction to form an agglutination reaction product wherein a predetermined antigen in the hemolysed whole blood sample specifically reacts with an antibody immobilized onto an insoluble carrier;

irradiating the agglutination reaction product in the hemolysed whole blood sample with radiation which includes a wavelength range which is free from absorption by both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent; and

measuring, only in a wavelength range which is free from absorption by both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent, an absorbance of the incident radiation with the agglutination reaction product to determine the quantity of antigens in the sample.

14. (Previously Presented) The agglutination immunoassay method of Claim 13 further including the step of determining the CRP component in plasma in the hemolysed whole blood sample.

15. (Previously Presented) The agglutination immunoassay method of Claim 13 wherein the wavelength range is approximately at 800 nm for measuring.

16-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A particle agglutination immunoassay method of quantifying a predetermined antigen in a sample of whole blood, comprising the steps of:

providing a sample of the whole blood;

adding a hemolysis reagent to the sample of whole blood;

hemolysing blood corpuscles in the sample of whole blood to enable a subsequent immunoreaction;

adding a latex reagent to the hemolysed whole blood;

providing an agglutination reaction with the hemolysed whole blood sample to form an agglutination reaction product of particles wherein a predetermined antigen in the hemolysed whole blood sample reacts with an antibody immobilized on an insoluble carrier particle to provide the agglutination reaction product;

irradiating the agglutination reaction product in the hemolysed whole blood sample with radiation which includes a wavelength of approximately 800 nm which is substantially tree from absorption by both hemoglobin and the hemolysis reagent; and

measuring, only with the wavelength of approximately 800 nm, a change in absorbance of the incident radiation by the agglutination reaction product to determine the quantity of antigens in the sample.

20. (Previously Presented) The particle agglutination immunoassay method of Claim 19 wherein the hemolysing reagent is saponin.

21. (Previously Presented) The particle agglutination immunoassay method of Claim 19 wherein the measuring also determines CRP of plasma components in the hemolysed whole blood sample.

22. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay system of Claim 8 wherein the means for measuring includes a light source for providing irradiation at a wavelength of approximately 800 run.

23. (Previously Presented) The immunoassay method of Claim 9 wherein the wavelength range is at approximately 800 nm.